

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of

Michael E. Tompkins, et al.

CONTINUATION OF  
SERIAL NO. 09/761,264

Filing Date: January 16, 2001

For: SPA CONTROL SYSTEM

Date: January 9, 2002

Examiner:

Art Unit: 2153

**Express Mail Label No. EL737700504 US**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The captioned application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/761,264. Before action, please amend the captioned application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

At page 1, after the title "SPA CONTROL SYSTEM" please delete the first paragraph spanning lines 2-10 and please add the following paragraph to the specification.

A1  
This application is a continuation of U.S. patent Application Serial No. 09/761,264 filed January 16, 2001, <sup>pending</sup> which is a continuation of U.S. patent Application Serial No. 08/822,179 filed March 20, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,253,227, which is a continuation of U.S. Application